RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

April, 1993

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

RNA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The final tabulations have been counted and the results are in. At the March 9th meeting, RNA elected its new executive officers for the coming year. The winners are:

CHAIRPERSON: Ernest Quintero
VICE-CHAIR: Russell Pratt
SECRETARY: Suzanne Maroon
TREASURER: Jack Rea
SGT.-AT-ARMS: Marie Tuzzo

Chair Ernie Quintero was a first-time office holder last year when he served as Vice-chair. He was also headed last year's flea market committee and has volunteered again this year.

Both Russell Pratt as the Vice-chair and Suzanne Maroon as the Secretary are relative new-comers to our organization. They are active and concerned neighbors and promise to uphold the RNA tradition.

Mrs. Marie Tuzzo has always been the 'peace-maker' at our meetings, so this year RNA decided to offcially designate her as its Sgt.-at-Arms.

Treasure Jack Rea was the only incumbent re-elected to his office.

RNA wishes all these newly-elected officers the best of luck in the performance of their duties. The members extend their support and cooperation in helping these fine people represent our neighborhood in the coming year.

RNA would also like to express its deep gratitude to the out-going officers who unselfishly gave of their time and energy to running this great organization. Special thanks to Maria Tuzzo as Chair and Margaret McCorry as Secretary. Their dedication helped maintain RNA's place in the community. We know that they will continue to contribute to our success by offering their experience to our new officers.

1993 MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's not to late to pay your annual RNA membership dues of $5.00 per person. Membership entitles you to full participation and voting rights in RNA. You will also receive the nine issues of our newsletter.

Bring your dues in person to the April meeting, or mail a check, made out to Riverview Neighborhood Association, to RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey, 07307.

MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Maria Tuzzo opened the March 9th meeting of RNA in the Harbor View Health Center's cafeteria because the second floor meeting room was unavailable. First she reminded everyone present to pay their annual RNA dues of $5.00, if they had not already done so. Second, she announced that Harbor View was holding its own flea market in April. She then informed the group that several council candidates in the upcoming municipal election had been invited to our next meeting. Finally, she introduced Thomas Berjgrowicz, the new administrator of Harbor View who briefly addressed our group.

After these announcements, the first order of business was a discussion of RNA's Ninth Annual Flea Market. The event will be held on Saturday, June 12th with a raindate of the following Saturday, June19th. As usual, it will be held in Riverview-Fiske Park.

Suggestions were offered to improve this year's flea market, including: more donations for the RNA table, better enforcement of the one free cup of coffee for vendors, better security at the food table, and softer rolls for the meatball sandwiches. One of the more serious problems is still keeping the Park clean during and after the event. Vendors and customers leave garbage in the Park that must be desposed of by RNA.

On the subject of dropping off items for the RNA table, Dorothy Rosario offered her house as the drop-off location. Dorothy lives at 283 Ogden Avenue, which is the last house

(continued on page two)

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: TUESDAY, April 13th
AT 7:15 PM
AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

As we go to press, the following candidates in the upcoming municipal election have confirmed that they will be our guests:

TOM DE GISE for Council-at-large
LOUIS DESTEFANO for Ward D
BILL GAUGHAN for Ward D
NANCY GAYNOR for Ward C

Meeting Minutes (continued from page one) on the Park's south side. She graciously offered to store items before the flea market and then carry them across the Park on the morning of the event.

Maria informed the group that representatives from the U.S. Post Office and the Hudson County Taxpayers Association are available to come to future meetings and meet with RNA.

The election for the annual RNA officers was held. By unanimous vote, RNA elected Ernie Quintero as Chair, Russell Pratt as Vice-chair, Suzanne Maroon as Secretary, and Jack Rea as Treasurer. The only contested race was between Mrs. Marie Tuzzo and Harry Siano for the position of Sargent-at-Arms.

Several issues came up in the New Business portion of the meeting. The first one was the neglect of property by absentee owners, specifically 169, 172, 173 and 175 Ogden Avenue. Maria Tuzzo suggested that RNA send a letter to these landlords telling them that their properties are not being properly maintained. If the problems persist, RNA can then contact the City authorities.

Another concern was the lights on the basketball court in Riverview-Fiske Park. After the blackout from the recent storm, the timer on the lights has not been working properly. The result is that the lights are on after 10 pm and the kids again playing ball to all hours of the morning.

RNA member Gert Bogdan told everyone that admission to the newly opened Liberty Science Center is on a pay-as-you-wish basis on the first Wednesday of each month after 1 pm. Maria announced the Multiple Sclerosis Super Cities Walk in Liberty State Park on March 28th.

Another report of possums on Ogden Avenue was reported - this time between Franklin and Ferry Streets.

RNA member Dorothy Rosario raised the possibility of creating a community garden in the empty lot at 255 Ogden Avenue. Margaret McCorry said she would try to find out who is in control of the property to get permission for the garden. Dorothy is looking for volunteers to help with this idea.

The next RNA meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13th at the Harbor View Health Center at the corner of Ogden Avenue and Franklin Street.

A personal note: it has been a pleasure serving as RNA Secretary this past year. Best wishes and thanks to the outgoing officers. Congratulations and good luck to RNA's newly-elected leaders!

Margaret McCorry,Secretary
(1992-93)

View from the Chair

"Seven!" A number that has always been important in our lives. We studied the seven wonders of the world and dream of sailing the seven seas. We mark time with seven days in the week. We take a seventh inning stretch at the ball game and if you like Atlantic City, seven is a good number to get on the first roll of the dice.

Seven has also been significant in my experience with RNA. I have been an executive officer for seven of the nine years of the association's existence. I have spent the past year as Chairperson and the previous six years as Secretary. It was my decision not to run for office in 1993.

While my time spent as an officer in RNA has not been a burden for me, these duties as well as changes in the other parts of my life, prompted me to make my decision not to seek office again.

Make no mistake. I will still be involved with RNA. Only now I'll be sitting in the audience instead of holding forth at the head table.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the new officers and to wish them as much fun and success as I have enjoyed in my seven year tenure.

And I would ask all our members to give our new officers the same consideration I have always had from you. T.T.F.N. *

Maria Tuzzo, Chair
(*Ta Ta For Now.) (1992-93)

THE ETERNAL QUESTION: WHY DO PEOPLE DESTROY THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD?

I am constantly amazed at the attitude some people display in the way they live in our neighborhood. They seem to think that they exist in a vacuum - without any regard for their neighbors or friends. They keep their properties in a constant state of disrepair and filth. Some of these people are homeowners, some are tenants, some are slumlords, and some are absentee owners.

The first group of people think they live in a third world country where there is no regular garbage pick-up. There is always garbage in front of their building (sometimes seven days a week). They do not have proper receptacles for this garbage and either put it out in open, plastic bags or just throw out the raw refuse. Some of these buildings do not have superintendents as required by law. I'm sure you have experienced the pleasure of walking on Palisade Avenue and stepping in or around garbage laying on the sidewalk. It is not only a mess but it is a health and safety problem.

One chronic offender of this garbage problem is the apartment building at 236-238 Palisade Avenue. This owner always piles the garbage on their Griffith Street sidewalk, preventing people from walking through. Next, the building at 274 Griffith Street has turned the dead-end at Griffith and Ogden to a private garbage dump. This refuse is then scattered into the adjoining playground in Riverview-Fiske Park.

The worst offender is a Raymond Murphy, the absentee owner of 385 Palisade Avenue. His tenants have been throwing garbage in front of their building for over two years without being stopped by the City . The Incinerator Authority has taken him to court several times. Unfortunately, the last time in court, the municipal judge decided to just slap his hand by reducing his fines and allowing him to pay it off in installments.

Compounding this garbage problem are the people who constantly dump their construction, auto repair or house garbage on the closed Mountain Road or over the Palisade cliff below the Park.

The second group of people are owners who keep their buildings rundown or else totally abandon them. This creates an invitation to break-ins and vandalism and the fear of arson.

One such owner, Richard Uhrig, owns 454 Palisade Avenue. His property includes an abandoned, unstable shack on the southern border of Riverview -

Fiske Park. RNA has been after the Building Department's Director Micheal Regan since 1991 to have this structure torn down. Not even the renovation of the Park last summer could stimulate the City to act on this problem. On the average of once every two months the Division of Property Conservation must reboard up the structure because of vandalism.

Another abandoned property is located at 234-236 Ogden Avenue. This property is owned by Norman Wilson under the name of Chemrik, Inc. and Maria Barretta. Since the neighborhood resisted his attempts to build a condo hi-rise on the lots over seven years ago, he has allowed the property to deteriorate by abandoning it. Again, Property Conservation is frequently called to resecure the property from break-ins and vandals.

The attempts of the City, through either the Incinerator Authority, Property Conservation or the Building Department has proved to be totally ineffective in addressing, let alone resolving these problems. The owners and their tenants have realized that they can do whatever they want because the City is incapable of enforcing its own sanitation and building regulations.

All this has terrible repercussions in the neighborhood. Once one person gets away with a violation, others follow suit. The overall appearance of the neighborhood suffers. Once a neighborhood looks seedy and decrepit, then nobody want to live here either as a tenant or an owner. The worst effect is that the value of the residential properties decrease. It is inevitability the beginning of a decline in the overall quality of life for a community.

All we ask is that people think about their actions. Put garbage out only on the night before a scheduled pick-up. It should only be put in containers or closed heavy-duty plastic bags. The same goes for maintainence of the properties. It is in the owners best interest to repair their buildings and not to let them deteriorate.

From the City, we ask that there be a greater vigilance to enforce the building codes and sanitation regulations. It will help insure the healthy life of the community and the well-being of its residents.

Vito Brunetti

HARBOR VIEW HOLDS ITS OWN FLEA MARKET

Harbor View Health Center will hold its own flea market for its residents on Thursday, April 23rd on the second floor. The hours will be 9:00 am to 3:00pm. The Center is located at the corner of Ogden Avenue and Franklin Street.

The Center is seeking donations for the sale from the local neighborhood. New items will be greatly appreciated as will used items, in good condition. Donations in demand are costume jewelry, cologne, slipper socks, nik-naks, small household items and boxed greeting cards. You may leave your donations at the reception desk.

Don't forget that the Center is ALWAYS looking for local volunteers to help with the residents. If you have the time and would like to help, please call Diane DeBergais at 963-1800.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Rebecca and Mark Wilder on the birth of their son, Samuel. Young Sam arrived on February 14th. Mom, Dad and baby are all doing well. Once again, our best wishes.

SOME TAXING AND HUMOROUS THOUGHTS

The government deficit is the difference between the amount of money the government spends and the amount it has the nerve to collect.

A recession is when your neighbor loses his job. A depression is when you lose your job. And panic is when your wife loses her job.

And finally . . . A man walked into the tax collector's office with a large bandage on his nose. "Had an accident, " asked the tax collector? "No," replied the man, "I've been paying through my nose for so long it gave way under the strain." (submitted by Ralph Goldsmith.)

APRIL

Spring, Easter, Bunnies, Chicks, Jelly Beans,
Income Tax time, Preparations for our annual Flea Market,
Happy Spring and Happy Easter to you all!

Madeline Rea

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

RNA is soliciting material for our newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers are interested in. Would you like to thank someone? Maybe you would like to complain about something. How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe, whether it is a family heirloom or something you just found out about. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

Drop off your contributions in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Avenue. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTERS."

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITORS: Maria Tuzzo, Vito Brunetti
ART WORK: Raquel Sweeney
CONTRIBUTORS: Madeline Rea, Maria Tuzzo, Vito Brunetti, Ted Conrad, Margaret McCorry, Hank Cesari, Ernest Quintero
CIRCULATION: Mrs. Tuzzo, Jack Rea

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to announce the official expansion of the northern boundaries of the Riverview Neighborhood Association from Bowers Street to Congress Street on both Palisade and Ogden Avenues. (Riverview Neighborhood Association will now represent residents living on Palisade and Ogden Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.)

Adopted: December 12, 1992

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 13TH AT 7:30 PM.

THE RNA NINTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

RNA has decided to hold its Ninth Annual Flea Market in the spring this year, due to the on-going renovations in Riverview Park. The organizing committee has promised that this Flea Market is going to be the best ever! It is scheduled for **Saturday, June 12th at Riverview-Fiske Park from 9 am to 4 pm.** Our raindate is the following Saturday, June19th.

Anyone who has been to our past flea markets can tell you its a time to browse and shop, and perhaps sell some of the unwanted items you have around your home. But most of all, the flea market is a chance for all of us as neighbors to be together and enjoy our neighborhood park.

As always, RNA will have a table at the flea market. You can help by donating anything you have around the house that you no longer need or want. (No spouses or significant others accepted!) Lamps, picture frames, dishes, knick-knacks, anything! Just take a look around and see if you've got anything to spare. We only ask the items be in good condition. You can bring the items to the park the morning of the flea market. The money we raise goes into the RNA treasury to fund projects and newsletter costs.

This year RNA has decided to provide **SPACE ONLY** for the merchants and sellers. If you are a RNA member you can reserve a space for $10.00. Non-members can reserve space for $15.00. (See attached application.)

Other perennial favorites will be at this year's flea market- hot dogs, baked goods, meatball sandwiches, coffee tea, and soda! You can have your children fingerprinted for free, or let them play with Roll-off and McGruff and you can take a chance on a 50/50 raffle.

We'll have something for everyone, so come join us in Riverview-Fiske Park JUNE 12th!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It takes a lot of work to organize and run the FLEA MARKET. You can help:

--CLEAN-UP THE PARK
--PICK-UP, SET-UP, BREAK-DOWN, AND RETURN THE TABLES
--WORK AT THE RNA TABLE
--SELL HOT DOGS, BEVERAGES, AND BAKED GOODS
--PUBLICIZE THE FLEA MARKET

CALL ERNEST QUINTERO AT 963-5608.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NINTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH
TIME: 9 AM TO 4PM

LOCATION: RIVERVIEW PARK

(RAINDATE JUNE 19TH)

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone No.:_____

PRICES FOR SPACE ONLY:

1) RNA MEMBERS- $10.00

2) NON-MEMBERS - $15.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 963-5608

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature :_____

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
Send Applications to **Ernest Quintero, 187 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307**
Attn: Flea Market

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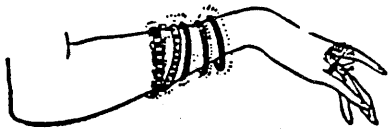

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FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

COME TO OUR NEXT RNA MEETING
ON TUESDAY, APRIL 13TH at 7:15 PM
TO HEAR THE LOCAL CANDIDATES

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Suzanne Maroon
Secretary

Jack Rea
Treasurer

Marie Tuzzo
Sgt. at Arms

Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

COMMITTEES:

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT

FLEA MARKET

NEWSLETTER

RNA NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR ITS NINTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

Plans are now being made for the Ninth Annual RNA Flea Market. The event will be held on Saturday, June 12th (the raindate will be the following Saturday, June19th). Riverview-Fiske Park will be the location for the flea market.
Ernie Quintero, who coordinated last year's flea market will be joined by Russell Pratt and Mike Pierro to head this year's organizing committee. The rest of the committee will include Gert Bogdan, Kathy Brennan, Bea Higgins, Suzanne Maroon, Jack Rea, Dennis Elgrim, Maria Tuzzo and Margaret McCorry.

It is a large undertaking and requires many volunteers. Please come to the next RNA meeting if you can help organize this event, or even if you just have some suggestions for its success. **We need your help!**